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Bedell Smith Home After Long Illness

WASHINGTON — UPI — Retired Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, nail-hard soldier-diplomat, was home today in "very fine" condition less than a year after he entered the hospital critically ill with lung ailments.

The 64-year-old friend and former comrade-in-arms of President Eisenhower walked out of Walter Reed Army Hospital yesterday, living up to his reputation of being "tougher than a 15-minute egg or a 25 cent steak."

Smith, dubbed "Bulldog" by Winston Churchill, entered Walter Reed Oct. 13, 1959, suffering from pneumonia and a lung abscess which required surgery.

The top World War II aide to Eisenhower, said he intended to return to his job as president and board chairman of American Machine Atomics, Inc.

The stern-jawed, wiry built Smith began his army career as a private and ended as a four-star general. He accepted the military surrenders of the Italian and German armies in World War II.

He served as U. S. Ambassador to Moscow during the tense months of the Berlin blockade, chief of the Central Intelligence Agency and Under-Secretary of State under the late Secretary John Foster Dulles.